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Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU :—" May I know if the hon. the Minister is prepared to extend the time still further, so that people who cannot go before 9 o'clock may take advantage of such extension of time ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" The question will be considered if there is reasonable complaint."

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know whether there was any representation made to the Minister that the time should be extended from 8 to 9 ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" It was after getting representations from various people that the time was extended."

Adoption of the system of rationing of country liquor.

*363 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether some system of rationing of country liquor has been adopted in any part of the Presidency ; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, whether he will be pleased to state in detail the scheme adopted ?

A.—(a) & (b) The arrack shops in the municipalities of Bimlipatam, Vizagapatam and Vizianagram have been sold in auction as a block and leased for a period of two years from 1st April 1929, subject to the right of the Government at the end of six months to determine the lease on 31st March 1930. The sale of liquor in these shops is being rationed, the ration being calculated at 5 per cent less (in round figures) than the average consumption of the shops for the five years ending 30th September 1928.

Number of foreign liquor shops and toddy shops in taluks where country liquor has been prohibited.

*364 Q.—Mr. C. GOPALA MENON : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of foreign liquor shops and toddy shops in the taluks in which the sale of country liquor has been prohibited ;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the taluks are situated on the borders either of Indian States or French territory ; and

(c) the consumption of toddy and foreign liquor in these taluks before and after the prohibition of the sale of country liquor ?

A.—(a) The number in 1928–29 was as follows :—

Taluk.	Number of toddy shops.	Number of foreign liquor shops.
Shiyali	62	1
Tirutturaippundi ...	98	1
Tiruvadanai	86	1
Tenkasi	40	1
Attur	43	Nil. (Experiment being tried only from 1st April 1929.)

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(b) The Tiruvadanai taluk of the Ramnad district borders on Pudukottai and the Tenkasi taluk of the Tinnevelly district borders on Travancore.

(c) The consumption of foreign liquor was as shown below :—

	(Foreign liquor, number of gallons.)				
	1923-24	1924-25	1925-26	1926-27	1927-28.
Shiyali ...	...	84	103	87	130
Tirutturaippundi	95	147	120	159	339
Tiruvadanai ...	100	161	240	255	203
Tenkasi ...	131	294	325	408	431
Attur ...	...	Nil.	...	...	...

Statistics of the consumption of toddy are not available.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" May I enquire why the number of foreign liquor shops has increased from one at the close of the regime of the late Excise Minister, Sir A. P. Patro, to four this year ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Where did the hon. Member get the information from ? "

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I knew it was one then because that answer was given by Sir A. P. Patro at that time."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am not aware of the actual number of shops at the time when Sir Patro laid down his office. If the number has increased, it must have been in 1927, before I took up office—if the hon. Member is sure that it was only one when Sir A. P. Patro laid down his office."

Extension of the system of licensing boards.

* 365 Q.—Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken to extend the system of licensing boards ;

(b) when he proposes to extend the system to all municipalities ; and

(c) whether he has considered the question of utilizing local boards for that purpose ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) Excise licensing boards have been formed in the fifteen major municipalities. The idea of the Excise Advisory Committee in recommending the creation of such boards was that they should form a basis of experiment and that the experience gained by their working should determine further action. The licensing boards were actually constituted so recently as 1927, and the Government are of opinion that it is as yet too soon to consider an extension of the system in the directions suggested.

Mr. G. HARISARVOTTAMA RAO :—" May I know if the hon. the Minister for Excise will tell us if he has received reports about these licensing boards from 1927 up to now ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Licensing boards have been working and we must have heard something about them."